

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed December 15, 2005, the Examiner noted that claims 1-5 were pending, and rejected claims 1-5. Claims 1-5 have been amended and new claim 6 and 7 have been added, and, thus, in view of the forgoing claims 1-7 remain pending for reconsideration which is requested. No new matter has been added. The Examiner's rejections are traversed below.

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected all claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by Ohta.

Ohta discusses converting an input color signal into a color signal representing a color which is visually closer to a color represented by the input color signal by performing gamut mapping processing based on the visual characteristics of humans. In gamut mapping a color outside a gamut or range of a device is mapped to be within (or on the edge of) the gamut of the device (see Ohta figure 4 and the associated description).

The present invention goes beyond just the simple gamut mapping of Ohta. The present invention (see claim 1 as an example) selects from among gamut conversion methods. That is, a "first gamut conversion method" is used "when" a first condition exists and "a gamut second conversion method" is used "when" a second condition exists. The condition that determines the selection is whether the color being converted is "within" or "outside" a "predetermined area" in a "vicinity" (the quality or state of being near) the color gamut. That is, if the color falls outside the gamut and in the predetermined area the first method is used and if the color falls outside the gamut and outside the predetermined area the second method is used (see application figures 10 and 11 and the associated description). Ohta does not teach or suggest such.

It is submitted that the present claimed invention patentably distinguishes over Ohta and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

New claims 6 and 7 emphasize using different gamut conversion methods when the color data is in or outside a predetermined area defined outside the target color gamut and, with respect to claim 7, nearest boundary point and chord conversion methods. Nothing in the prior art teaches or suggests such. It is submitted that the new claim, which is different and not narrower than prior filed claims distinguishes over the prior art.

It is submitted that the claims are not taught, disclosed or suggested by the prior art. The claims are therefore in a condition suitable for allowance. An early Notice of Allowance is requested.

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If any further fees, other than and except for the issue fee, are necessary with respect to this paper, the U.S.P.T.O. is requested to obtain the same from deposit account number 19-3935.

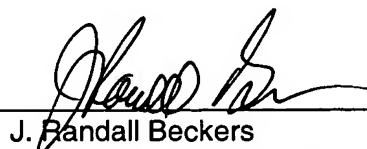
Respectfully submitted,

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